

ABSTRACT

5 A one-piece molded orthotic insert having a shape for controlling and directing
the motions of the foot. The insert has a unitary body that is formed of a rigid, resiliently
flexible, substantially noncompressible material, so that the insert will flex with the shoe
but will not compress or deform, so that a correct shape is maintained through the gait
cycle. The insert includes a raised arch portion that is supported by a plurality of
10 underlying, vertical ribs. The ribs are spaced apart and free from connection with one
another, so that the lower edges of the ribs are able to spread as the insert flexes along its
lengthwise axis, so that the insert flexes generally uniformly when walking and without
distortion of its shape. The layer of material overlying the ribs has a thickness generally
similar to that in the rest of the body, and the ribs also have a generally similar
15 thickness, facilitating manufacture by injection molding. A depending ridge extends
around the lower surface of the insert for pressing into an insole so as to stabilize the
insert against sliding or shifting in the shoe. The present invention provides many of the
advantages of a custom orthotic using a more economical insert, and due to its thin
vertical height it is especially suited for use with dress shoes.

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